

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait (S/2000/478). Annexed to this letter is a position paper which the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait claims originated with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). As a State member of that Organization, we were unaware, as we believe other States members and the OIC General Secretariat to have been, of this position paper, which has no official or legal status. It has been published in contravention of the procedure whereby either the State holding the OIC Presidency or the OIC General Secretariat requests circulation of documents by the United Nations. We shall be seeking clarification from the OIC General Secretariat as to the true status of this document.

The submission for publication by Kuwait of this unofficial and illegal paper constitutes an abuse on its part of the right of States to request circulation of documents by the United Nations. It also severely undermines the credibility of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its rules of procedure. It would appear that a lack of objectivity on the part of the author of this paper has led him to overlook the fact that the credibility of the Organization and its resolutions must be upheld. One paragraph of the paper states: "All of the final communiqués and decisions adopted by successive ministerial conferences and their subsequent coordination meetings have included specific sections calling for the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons to their homeland and their families. It should be noted that most of the resolutions in question were drafted in coordination with representatives of Kuwait before being submitted to OIC meetings for adoption."

The above-mentioned letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait and its annex, in addition to constituting an abuse of the right of States to request circulation of documents by the United Nations and undermining the credibility of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, represents an underhand and selective attempt to politicize the missing persons issue. This is a purely humanitarian issue of concern to Iraq, of whose citizens 1,150 are missing, as well as to Kuwait and third countries. There was no call for this matter to be used for cheap political gain and propaganda with complete disregard for its humanitarian character and the feelings of the families of the missing persons, whatever their nationality.



I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative